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ABSTRACT

The materials in this lesson plan introduces students to the U.S. Navy by exploring the hats officers and enlisted personnel wear to work. The lesson is appropriate for students in grades 1-3 and was designed in accordance with local and national social studies standards. The lesson plan cites educational objectives and lists materials provided. It is divided into four sections: (1) "Lesson Plan"; (2) "Hats Off Introduction"; (3) "Hat Descriptions and Drawings" (from the earliest days of the U.S. Navy); and (4) "Hats Off Activity Sheet". (BT)

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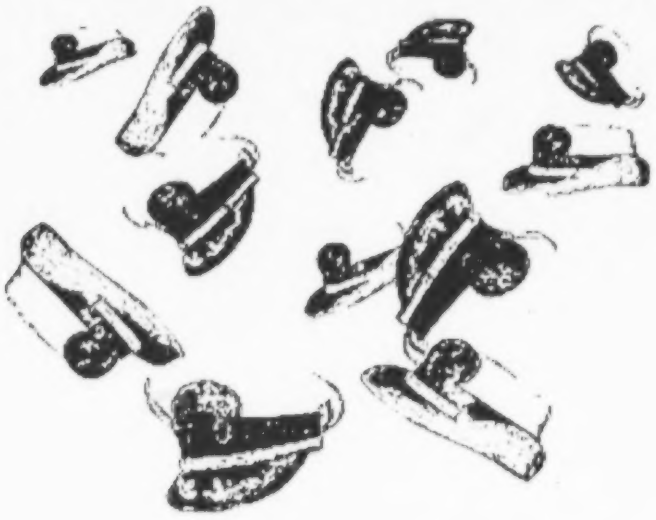

Hats Off

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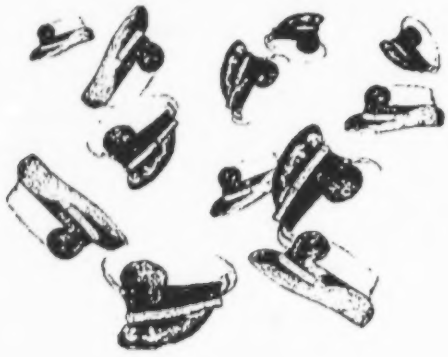

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Hats Off

Teachers

These materials will introduce your students to the Navy by exploring the hats officers and enlisted personnel wear to work. This program is appropriate for grades 1-3 and was designed in accordance with local and national social studies standards. All materials may be reproduced.

To schedule a Hats Off tour for your group, contact Sheila Brennan at 202-433-6826. We welcome all comments on our pre-visit materials.

Lesson Plan

Objectives:

1. Students learn meaning and symbolism from clothing, particularly Navy uniforms.
2. Students identify Navy personnel by their hats.
3. Students learn about different jobs in the Navy and how ships serve as floating communities.
4. After a hands-on look at sailor hats, students color and cut out their own hat at the Museum.

Materials:

1. Introduction
2. Hat descriptions and drawings
3. Hat ID activity

Hats Off

Introduction

Hats, or covers as they are called in the Navy, are an important part of any sailor's uniform. Sailors must wear a hat anytime they are outside. Hats come off when a sailor steps indoors.

In the Navy, there are two main groups of sailors: officers and enlisted persons. Officers make plans and give orders to complete different tasks. Enlisted persons help complete those tasks using special knowledge and skills (such as electronics or computer programming) on bases, ships, submarines, and airplanes. These groups wear different uniforms and different hats. All sailors must learn to recognize the differences right away, because an enlisted sailor always salutes an officer. Enlisted and officer men and women in the Navy also wear special hats to protect them while they work.

When you visit The Navy Museum, you will see many hats. Some were worn by sailors many years ago and others are those that sailors wear today. You will also see hats that help protect sailors while they work. Look closely at paintings and sculptures, because there are plenty of hats there too!

Hats Off

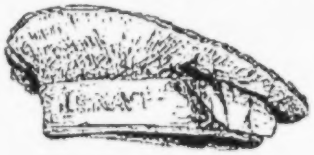
Hat Descriptions and Drawings

These hats are part of a sailor's uniform:

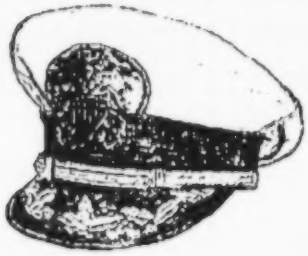
Tar Hat (enlisted)

Cocked Hat (officer)

Flat Hat (enlisted)



Visor Hat (officer-men)

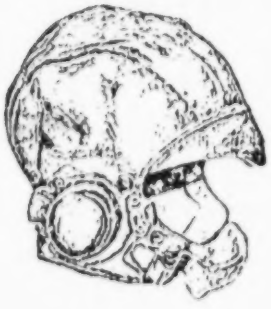


Service Hat (officer-women)

White Hat (enlisted)

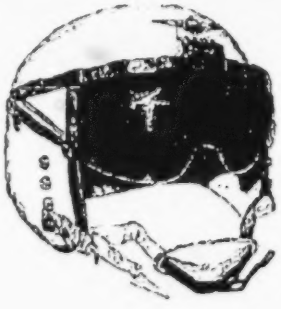
These hats protect a sailor at work:

Aviator or Pilot helmet



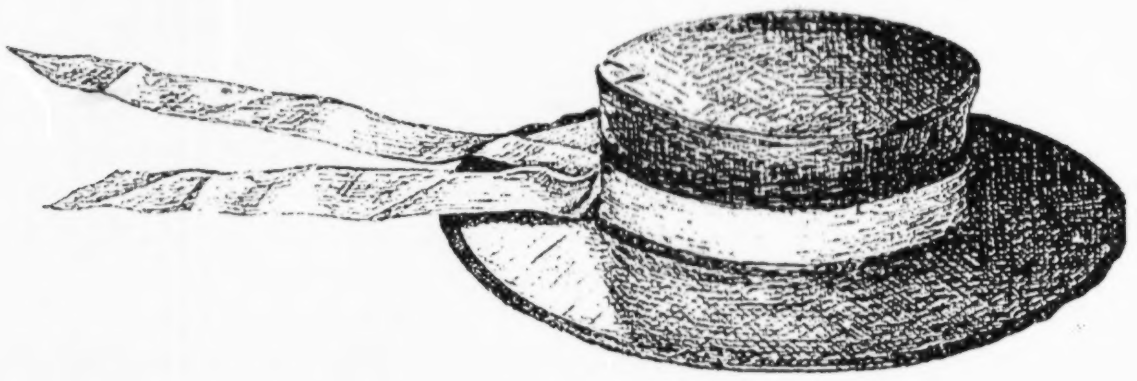
Battle helmet

Jet Fighter Pilot helmet



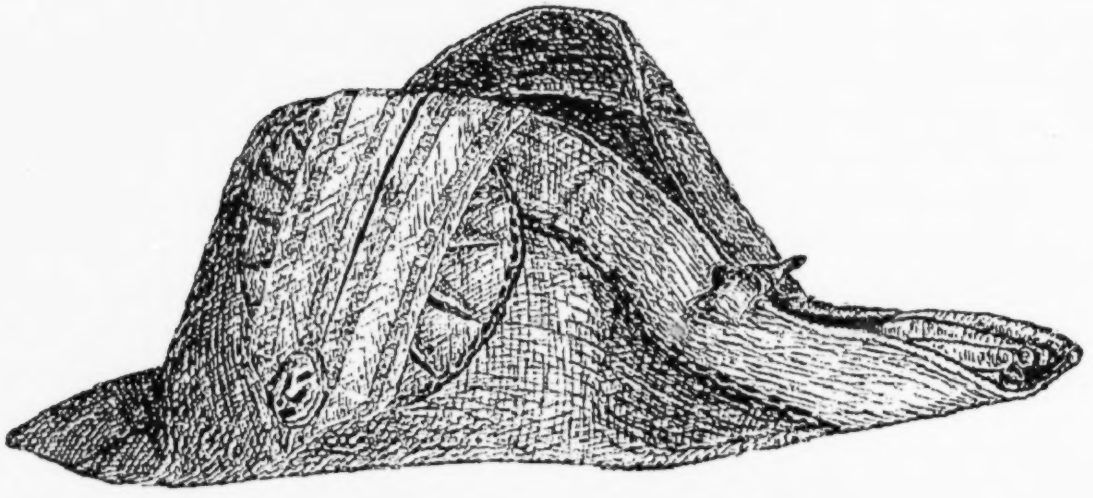
Tar Hat (enlisted)

This wide-brimmed black hat was worn by enlisted sailors many years ago when the Navy first began. Painted with tar, the wide brim kept sun off a sailor's face.



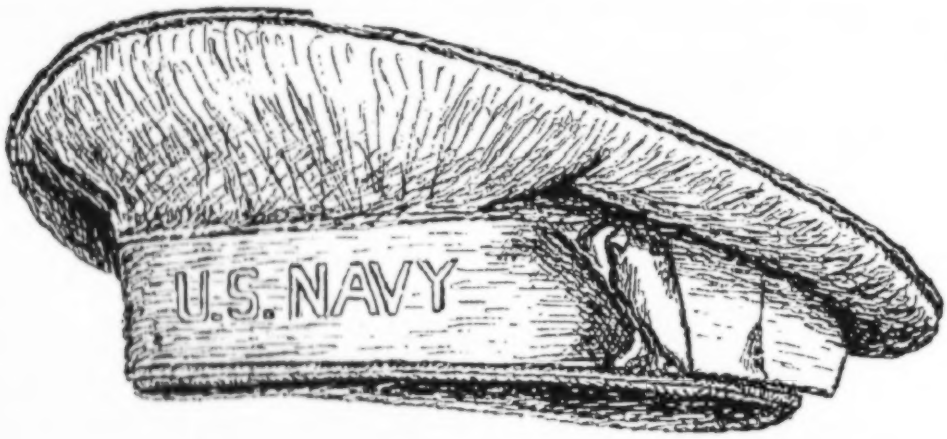
Cocked Hat (officer)

This was the first officer's hat in the U.S. Navy following the Revolutionary War. The hat is round with the sides folded up and tied with a bow. The gold tassles are decoration. At first, the hats folded to fit under an officer's arm, but later they were made to stay open. The cocked hat was also called the "fore and aft," and was worn for many years until World War II.



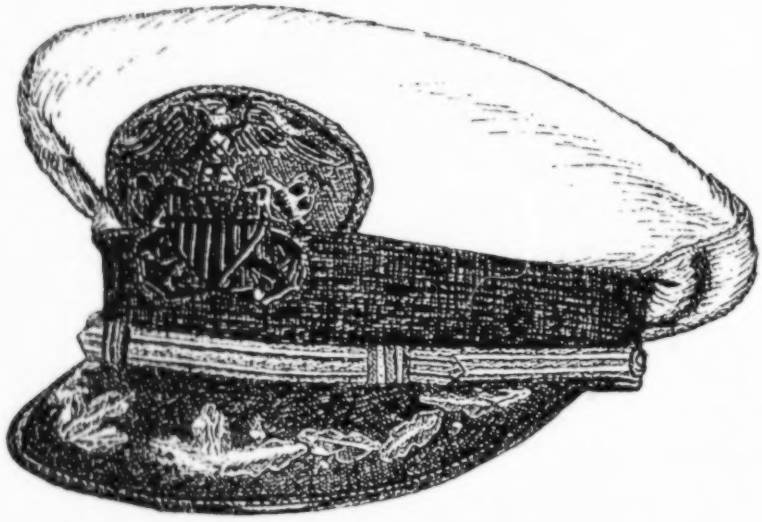
Flat Hat (enlisted)

Sometimes this hat is called the "Donald Duck." Enlisted sailors started wearing this round, blue wool hat during the Civil War. At first, a sailor's ship name was sewn or printed on the hat band, but later only "U.S. Navy" was printed on the hat.



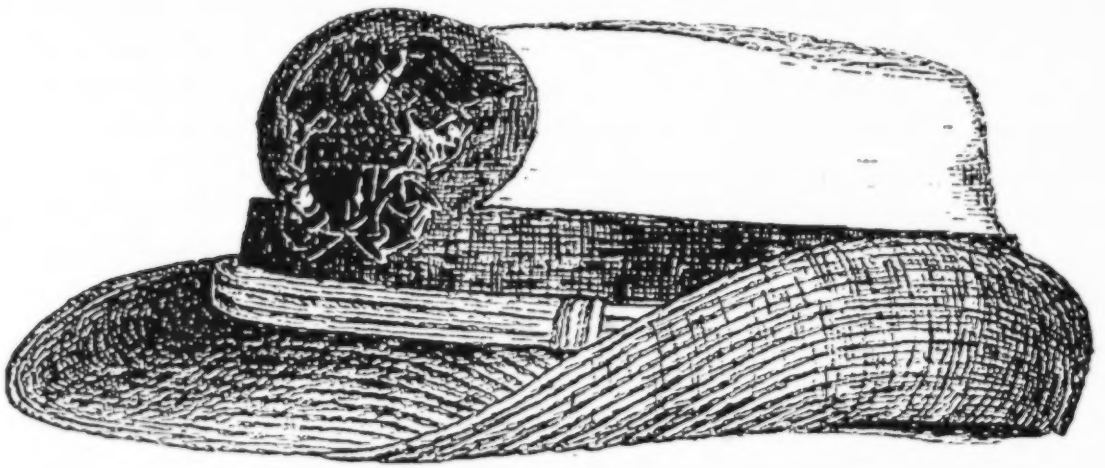
Visor Hat (officer-men)

Male naval officers wear the visor hat today. The insignia in the center of the hat is an eagle on top of a shield in front of two crossed anchors. This designates the person wearing the hat as an officer. Like the service hat, the visor on a junior officer's hat is plain black and senior officers have gold oak leaves on the visor called "scrambled eggs."



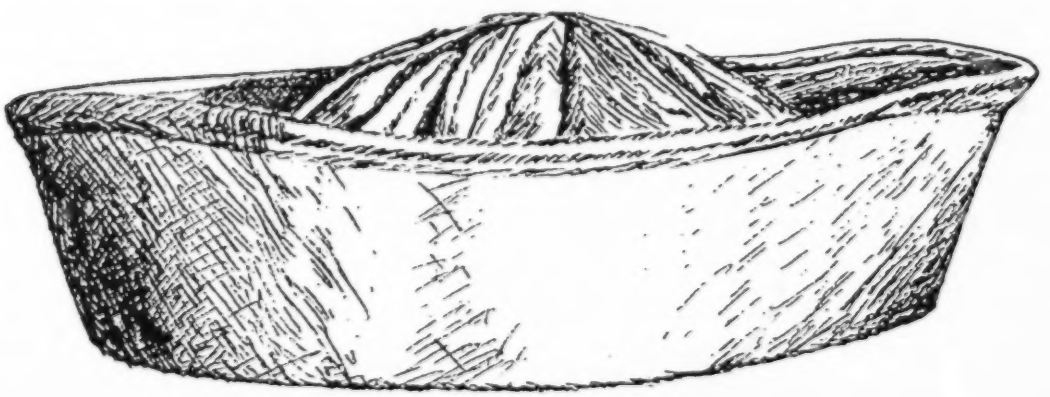
Service Hat (officer-women)

The female officer's hat is round with the sides folded up. Like the visor hat, the visor on a junior officer's hat is plain black. A senior officer's hat has gold oak leaves on the visor called "scrambled eggs." The more scrambled eggs, the higher her rank. The insignia in the center of the hat is an eagle on top of a shield in front of two crossed anchors.



White Hat (enlisted)

Enlisted sailors wear this hat today. It is made of white cotton and is sometimes called a "Dixie cup." You may have seen the sailor on a box of Cracker Jack wearing the same hat.

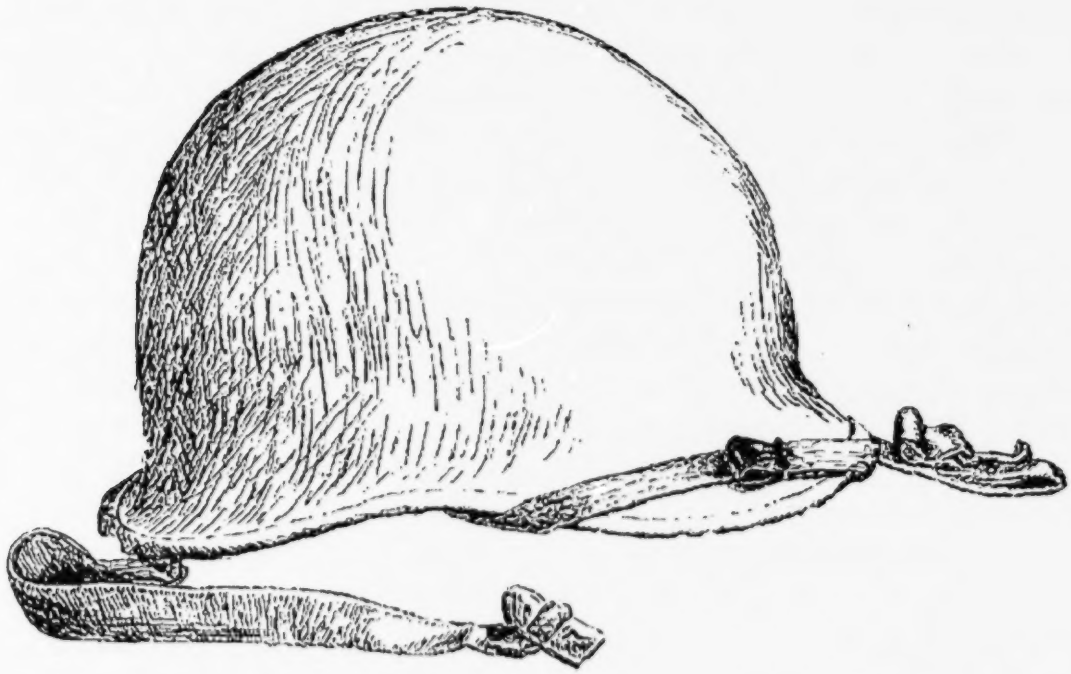


Aviator Helmet

Pilots wore this hat to protect themselves from wind and cold during World War II. In summer, pilots wore cotton helmets and leather in winter.

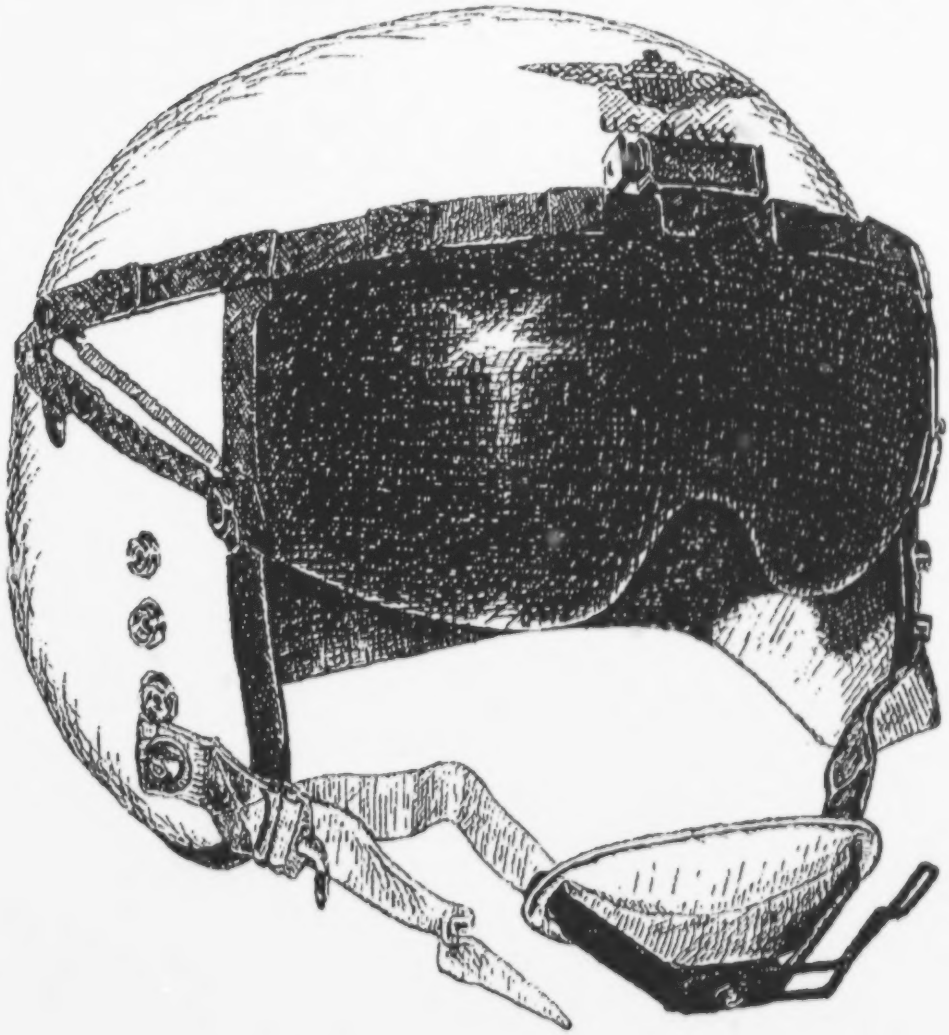
Battle Helmet

Sailors wore this steel helmet to protect themselves in battle from flying metal pieces called schrapnel.



Jet Fighter Pilot Helmet

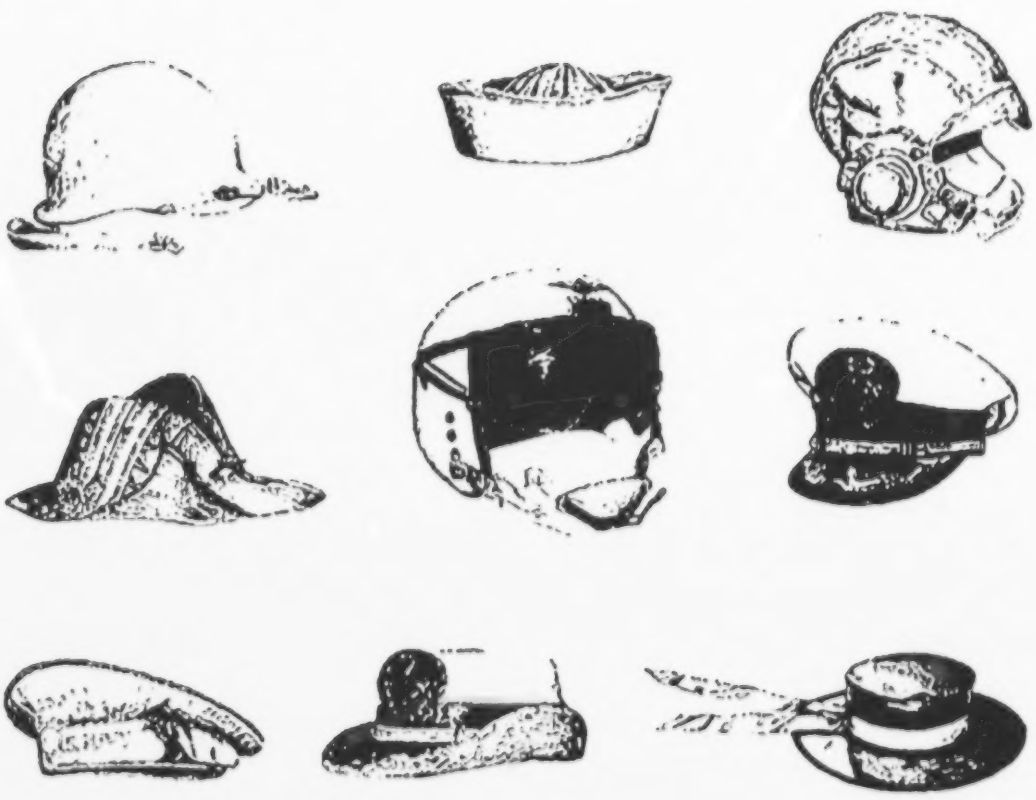
Jet fighter pilots wore this helmet for protection if the plane should crash. The visor protects their eyes from the sun. It is made of hard, sturdy plastic.



Hats Off Activity Sheet

HATS OFF!

1. Put an "E" next to Enlisted sailors hat, an "O" next to the Officer's hat; and a "P" next to the hat worn for Protection.
2. Circle in BLUE hats that ARE worn in the Navy today.
3. Circle in YELLOW hats that ARE NOT worn in the Navy today.



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